

COMMITTEE: Special Educational Needs Joint Committee

DATE: 18th March 2016

TITLE OF THE REPORT: Report of the SEN Provider Unit

ACTION: Consider the report

BACKGROUND: Description of the work of the SEN Joint Committee Provider Unit during the autumn term 2015.

Report of the SEN Provider Unit

1.0 Administration of Assessment and Review Processes

We continue with the Service Manager who is with us on secondment.

Following the resignation of two of the Administrative staff in December 2015, a full-time ALN Clerical Support Worker was appointed, temporary until the end of May this year. There will not be a decision regarding filling this post permanently until the work of reviewing the administrative arrangements and systems of the Provider Unit have been completed.

The unit has been exceptionally busy working on all the year 6 reviews, as well as the reviews of the delegated schools, that were received in December and January. The revised statements were all completed by the appropriate date, i.e. the 15th of February.

2.0 Specialist Teachers Service

We are currently operating with the following staff.

Hearing Service:

Equivalent to 2.7 full-time teachers, three individuals.

All three of the teachers are now qualified.

The contract of the one who has recently trained will come to an end in the summer.

Visual Service:

Equivalent to 2.2 full-time teachers, three individuals, one (1.0) still in training.

Equivalent to 1.6 full-time assistants with a high level of skills in Braille.

Language and Communication Service:

Equivalent to 1.8 full-time teachers.

There are difficulties in ensuring an adequate service to Anglesey in particular in this area at the moment.

Physical and Medical Difficulties Service.

Equivalent to 1.3 full-time teachers.

3.0 Educational Psychology Service

At the moment, we are operating with:

Equivalent to 5.9 psychologists (9 individuals), and there are two trainee psychologists on placement with us at the moment from the course in Cardiff.

The principal psychologist and the two senior psychologists have time allocated to duties other than working in schools, and one of the trainee psychologists is close to completing her course and has taken some schools.

This means that the equivalent of 4.9 psychologists are working directly with the schools, 1.8 in Anglesey (37%) and 3.1 in Gwynedd (63%).

This compares unfavourably with the figure for February 2011, when there were the equivalent of 8.1 psychologists.

We are also of course supporting two trainee psychologists in Cardiff at the moment who will be ready to work as psychologists in September 2017

With this team, we can provide a basic service to every school in both authorities, that is, arrange for every school to have a designated psychologist, and consult regularly with the schools concerning individual children and other matters relevant to Additional Learning Needs.

4.0 Additional Information

The tables below show the number of final statements that were produced within the statutory timetable of 26 weeks during the academic year 2013-2014. (Statutory Performance Indicators)

26 week Performance Indicators Gwynedd during the 6 months between 1/9/15 -29/6/16	
Total of new final statements completed	24
Number of final statements within 26 weeks with exceptions	7
Number of final statements within 26 weeks without exceptions i.e. within time limits and no exceptions noted	4
Number of final statements over 26 weeks with exceptions i.e. over the time limit because of, or partly because of, external factors.	12
Number of final statements over 26 weeks without exceptions i.e. beyond the time limit and no exceptions noted (no-one late providing advice from external agencies and no factors that were beyond the control of the education authority and/or the SEN Joint committee.)	1
Performance Indicator 15a: From the total of cases during the first 6 mths of 2015/16, the percentage within the 26 weeks, exceptions or not.	36.8%
Performance Indicator 15b: From the cases where there were no exceptions, the percentage that were completed within 26 weeks	80%

26 week Performance Indicators Ynys Môn Academic during the 6mths 1/9/15 – 29/2/16	
Total of new final statements completed	28
Number of final statements within 26 weeks with exceptions	2
Number of final statements within 26 weeks without exceptions i.e. within time limits and no exceptions noted	3
Number of final statements over 26 weeks with exceptions i.e. over the time limit because of, or partly because of, external factors.	23
Number of final statements over 26 weeks without exceptions i.e. beyond the time limit and no exceptions noted (no-one late providing advice from external agencies and no factors that were beyond the control of the education authority and/or the SEN Joint committee.)	0
Performance Indicator 15a: From the total of cases during the first 6 mths of 2015/16, the percentage within the 26 weeks, exceptions or not.	8%
Performance Indicator 15b: From the cases where there were no exceptions, the percentage that were completed within 26 weeks	100%

